

FATAL SHOOTING

This Time It is Done in Self-Defense.

A SUNDAY MORNING HORROR.

The Insane Act of a Border Costs Him His Life—He Poured Water in the Piano and Ruined the Parlor Furniture, and When Accused He Acted Like a Desperado—An Almost Incredible Tale—The Knife and the Revolver Both Play Their Part—Ex-Register and Recorder James Griffin Badly Used Up—A Proceeding Without a Precedent. Another homicide swells Johnstown's already lengthy list. It happened Sunday morning about 4 o'clock.

The scene was at the house of Mr. Edward Brady, No. 26 Singer street, Ninth ward. Mrs. Brady keeps several boarders, and has her house very nicely furnished, a fine piano and an elegant tapestry suite being some of the parlor furnishings. Why anyone should seek to destroy the piano and furniture is certainly a mystery. But nevertheless an attempt to do so led to a murder as will be seen.

The family of Mr. Brady consists of himself, his wife and two daughters, Annie and Ella. The former is the well-known vocalist, and was not at home at the time. Having been at Morrellville at a concert the evening previous, she remained at Conway's Hotel all night.

As nearly as could be ascertained the particulars are as follows: Yesterday morning about 3 o'clock a noise in the parlor, which proved to be the upsetting of the piano stool by some one's falling over it, aroused Miss Nellie the younger daughter. She at once went to the scene of the noise, coming down the front stairway without a light. She went to the parlor door, which opens into the hall at the foot of the stairs, and was startled on opening it to hear the trickling and bubbling of water. She also heard footsteps in the dining room and thought some one ran up the back stairs. She ran back up stairs to inform her mother that something was wrong. The two then proceeded with a light to the parlor, where they were astounded to find the piano full of water, the carpet and much of the furniture soaking wet. For a moment they were dazed with astonishment. Returning up stairs they aroused the boarders, all of whom came down, and in a short time the water was poured off and out of the piano as well as could be done. Everyone present expressed his amazement at the extraordinary happening.

Mention should be made here of two of the boarders. They were James O'Connor and John Pfeiffer. James Griffin, ex-Register and Recorder was another boarder.

O'Connor came to Brady's about six months ago, and was employed as a stone mason, some say a plasterer. He claimed to hail from Washington, D. C. He is known to have done some drinking, but never, while here, was seen much under the influence of liquor. His age he gave as forty-two years. He had always deported himself properly while about the house, and elsewhere so far as is known.

Pfeiffer came to Johnstown from Ohio about the last of October, and has boarded at Brady's ever since. He is a carpenter and worked for Michael Kist, the contractor. He is much esteemed by those who know him and has many warm friends.

Mr. Griffin is too well known in this vicinity to need have anything said about him.

And now, to return to the scene in the parlor: The piano was quickly opened and part of it taken apart to admit of rapidly drying it, in the hope that it might be saved from what seemed inevitable ruin. On the keyboard was found some blood, and this further excited those present. On the floor near the piano was found a carpet slipper such as the boarder O'Connor was known to wear. He was suspected, but nothing was then said.

Proceeding to the kitchen a bucket was found filled with water ready, it is presumed, to be poured over the things in the parlor.

The boarders again went upstairs, and Mrs. Brady sought to solve the mystery. The slipper was in her mind a tell-tale. She examined more closely. She found wet tracks leading from the parlor. These were traced to the door of the room occupied by O'Connor and some others. She accused him of destroying her furniture and piano, whereupon he grew indignant. Mr. Brady was sleeping on a lounge, and his pockets were turned inside out as if he had been robbed. Mrs. Brady also accused O'Connor of having robbed her husband. He became abusive, and Mr. Griffin, who occupied a bed in the same room spoke up. O'Connor made at him with a knife, slashing him in the face and about the head. Others interfered to save Mr. Griffin's life, foremost among whom was

Pfeiffer. O'Connor threatened him called him a murderer, an assassin, and an escape from prison, and declared "I'm Jack the Ripper," or words to the effect of the above. O'Connor advanced toward him, and Pfeiffer, who was armed with a thirty-eight calibre self-setting revolver, warned him three times to keep his distance. When O'Connor did not heed this and came toward Pfeiffer, the latter fired once, aiming overhead, thinking that would have the effect of quieting O'Connor, but the two soon had hold of each other, and as O'Connor was the stronger, it was plain that Pfeiffer was going to get the worst of it, seeing which he fired one or two shots more, when O'Connor fell to the floor.

He was cared for by Dr. H. F. Tomb, and about daylight he was taken to the Seventh Ward Hospital, where he died at about half past 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Pfeiffer made no attempt to escape and no arrest was made until about 9:30 in the forenoon, when he was put in the Conemaugh borough lock-up to await the result of the shooting. In the meantime he had attended 8 o'clock worship at St. Joseph's Church. He claims that he got into the trouble by interfering in behalf of Mr. Griffin, who was murderously assaulted, and that when he himself was attacked he shot in self-defense.

O'Connor was able to speak after the shooting, and is reported to have said that he was to blame for it himself. He claimed to be a Catholic, and was asked at the hospital whether he wanted the priest, and he replied that he did after a while. Father Corbinian of the German Catholic Church went to visit him about 3 o'clock, but the patient was then dead. In his lower hip was a cut, it is supposed, from having struck on the piano, where the blood was found. This left no doubt as to who tried to destroy the piano and furniture. It was the fall when the cut was received that caused the noise whereby he was discovered.

The coroner was notified of the death of O'Connor, and yesterday afternoon he summoned a jury composed of Alex. N. Hart, Foreman; J. S. Ashbridge, Dorsey King, J. S. Smith, Harry Mahon, and Rily Cramer. They repaired to the Seventh Ward Hospital and viewed the remains, after which they adjourned to meet at Squire Hart's office this forenoon at 10 o'clock.

Coroner McLaughlin then ordered the body taken to Henderson's Morgue, where an autopsy was made last night by Dr. Tomb, assisted by Drs. Matthews and Wagoner. The result will be made known at the inquest. There were two bullet holes in the body, one near the collar bone and the other in the breast, the ball penetrating near the heart.

Mr. Griffin's injuries consist of bruises and lacerations about the head and face. They are of a painful and serious nature. Yesterday he spent in his room, and it may be some time before he will be able to be about.

In consequence of the shock which she has sustained by the sad happening at her house, Mrs. Brady is almost prostrated, while a gloom has been cast over the whole household, which will linger for some time.

Body of a Woman Found.

On Friday evening a body, that of a woman, was found at Conemaugh Furnace, eight miles below this city, at the old dam, which did service in the days of the canal. It will be brought to this city today, when a complete description will be made out.

The body is described by the finder L. S. Shaw, foreman of the Sang Hollow division, Pennsylvania Railroad, as having on it a brown coat and brown dress, high buttoned shoes, about No. 3, and black ribbed stockings, brown dress, cardinal trimmings, brown hair, faalste teeth gold band ring, inscribed, "John," Nov. 1855, gold ring with set.

There is an impression among the relatives of Mr. John J. Geis, of Salina, Kansas, who live in this city, that the body found is that of his wife. The ring answers well. Mr. Geis was married in October, 1885. Some of the clothing as described does not correspond to that which she wore, but there may be some mistake about that. The difference in the date of the ring and the marriage may be explained.

Mrs. Geis, it will be remembered, was visiting here at the time with Mr. Geis's folks. She went down in the flood, and has never been heard of yet, unless the body described is hers.

Death of an Aged Woman.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ribblett, who died in West Taylor township on Thursday, at the age of ninety-two years was one of the oldest residents of this section. When a young woman, she and her husband, Bartholomew Ribblett, moved on a farm in West Taylor township, where they lived for many years. Mr. Ribblett died over twenty years ago since which time she has been living with her sons. She reared quite a family but only three survive her. William and Abram of West Taylor township, and Mrs. Yeager who lives near Pittsburgh.

FATAL SHOT.

Coopersdale the Scene of a Tragedy on Saturday Afternoon.

Between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon a fatal shooting took place at the house of a man named Hagen, who lives in the lower end of Coopersdale.

A young man named John O'Neill was shot dead, by receiving in his mouth the full contents of a loaded shot-gun in the hands of a fellow boarder named Bert Davidson. Davidson promptly surrendered himself, and is now in the Millville lock-up. He claims that the shooting was purely accidental. He is much distressed at what has happened.

The particulars are best given by the following, the official record of the facts as far as taken up to this time:

In the absence of the Coroner of Cambria county, Alex. N. Hart, Esq., of Johnstown, empaneled a jury to inquire into the death of John O'Neill, of Coopersdale, Cambria county.

The jury empaneled by the Justice is as follows: J. S. Smith, foreman, John McCurdy, Wm. Colbert, Campbell Hess, Wm. H. Hess, and B. F. Boyer.

After viewing the body, the following testimony was taken.

Miss Nellie Hagen, sworn.—I live in Coopersdale, Cambria county; was present at the time of the shooting; was in the room with John O'Neill and Bert Davidson; they proposed going hunting; O'Neill went up stairs and brought his gun, a shot-gun; O'Neill took a cap off the wall and placed it on his head, having the gun in his hand at the time; Davidson remarked that it became him, and in a playful manner proposed that he (Davidson) shoot it off; Davidson at the time was sitting upon the lounge and O'Neill standing in front and about four feet distant; O'Neill remarked, "All right," and handed him the gun; I immediately heard a report and seen O'Neill reel and fall to the floor; Davidson jumped to his feet and rushed out of the room; I did not see him raise the gun; knew of no difficulty existing between the men; they appeared to be as intimate as brothers.

Mrs. Lucy Hagen, sworn.—At the time of the shooting I was in the kitchen adjoining the room where the shooting occurred; heard the report of the gun; my nephew, Milton Botsinger, was sitting at the door leading into the room; he immediately opened it and Bert Davidson rushed out exclaiming: "Oh, my God! I have shot him!" he asked me where the Constable lived; I told him and he started to find him; I know of no difficulty existing between the men; they acted more like brothers.

Milton Botsinger, sworn.—My home is in Ebensburg; Mrs. Hagen is my aunt; I was present at the time of the shooting; was sitting at the door leading into the room when the shooting occurred; on hearing the report of the gun, I immediately opened the door; Sam O'Neill fell to the floor and Davidson rushed out of the room.

Mr. Hagen was also sworn, but his testimony was corroborative of the above and contained nothing additional.

After hearing the testimony the jury adjourned to meet at Justice Hart's office, today at 3:30 p. m.

HARDLY A ROSY OUTLOOK.

The Republican Chances in the State Are Not so Good as Party Friends Tell Him—An Uprising Against Delamater.

There is a great deal of quiet smiling in Harrisburg over the way the alleged leaders who have had Senator Quay's ear at Washington, have been plaiting that statesman's hair in telling him of the rosy outlook for Delamater. The fact is, from information received from various parts of the State, the outlook is not only not rosy for Delamater, but there is an undercurrent of opposition that is decidedly alarming. The expose of the way in which Chairman Andrews worked Cambria county for Delamater has set people to talking, and politicians from different parts of the State are outspoken in their denunciation of a campaign in which the State Chairman uses the party machinery to further the interests of a particular candidate.

Especially is there a kick in the oil regions. Prominent Republicans in that section who have been asked to be delegates have refused on the ground that if Delamater is a candidate, they would not then be free to fight him, which they propose to do, tooth and nail.

Especially aggravating to the free thinking voters are the dispatches sent out from Washington, under Andrews's direction, to the effect that any man who enters the field against Delamater does so at his peril, and to the "injury of his future political prospects." This warning to clear the track or be smashed will not be tamely submitted to.

Another subject of comment is the absurd habit of the Delamater people have of claiming everything. Last week they claimed that Miller, the delegate from Snyder, was for Delamater, when the fact is he defeated the Delamater delegate and is for Hastings. In Harrisburg, if a vote of the people is taken on endorsing a candidate, Hastings would defeat Delamater two to one. The delegate will be Lyman D. Gilbert, and he is not pledged to any candidate.

There are stories to the effect that Chris L. Magee, Wharton Barker, James McManes, Charles W. Stone, Daniel T. Hastings, William R. Leeds, Lewis W. Emery, Thomas B. Cochran, Barton D. Evans, E. Nevin Pomeroy, and other prominent men of the party will combine and make a vigorous fight against Delamater on the ground that if he is nominated there will be a repetition of 1882. This may be interesting for Mr. Quay to read in Philadelphia to-morrow.

DEATH OF DAVID BYRON GIBBONS.

His Promising Life Comes to an End Friday Morning at 12:25 O'clock—The Funeral.

David Byron Gibbons, one of the best known and widely esteemed citizens of Altoona, and for many years a much respected resident of this city, died at his residence, 1309 Twelfth avenue, Altoona, at 12:25 o'clock Friday morning, aged 33 years, six months and twenty four days. Death was the result of consumption, a disease which had been slowly sapping his life away for many months past. About one year ago he was attacked with hemorrhages of the lungs, which left him in a weakened condition.

The Altoona Times of yesterday pays him an eloquent tribute, and in doing so voices the sentiments of many friends of the deceased in this city. Continuing the Times says: He had apparently recovered from his first attack and was in good health until the Johnstown flood. In that fearful calamity he was subjected to exposure, which finally terminated in the disease which caused his death. During the long and weary weeks of suffering he bore himself with Christian fortitude and was never heard to complain. He was conscious to the last and affectionately bade his sobbing wife and friends farewell.

The deceased was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in the Parish of Giver. He was the son of John and Murrie Gibbons, parents of excellent character and the highest peerage. He came to America in the year 1870, when but 16 years of age. For several years he attended schools in Philadelphia and Scranton, and during these early years fitted himself for his later life. As a scholar he was considered unusually apt and bright, and always head of the class.

About six years ago he was united in marriage to Miss May Bradley, eldest daughter of Mr. Hugh Bradley, a well-known citizen of Johnstown, and soon after that date he took up his residence in this city. He was there at the time of the flood, and his escape from death was indeed a miraculous one. All his property and possessions, including a magnificent library, were swept away and destroyed. After that calamity he came to Altoona and had resided here ever since.

Three small children have preceded him to the grave, the youngest, James Leo, having died only a few weeks ago, and of the once happy family a sorrowing wife remains. Three brothers—Peter, of Philadelphia, and Dennis and Edward and one sister, Mame, residing in Leadville, Col.—survive, as do several brothers and sisters, being at the old home in Ireland. David Gibbons needs no eulogy. He was a man too pure and noble to have his virtues painted in the feeble colors of language. His memory will live after him, and will be cherished by all who knew him.

Possessed of rare intellectual and physical endowments, he was destined to make his mark, and hard indeed was it to find a man of wider and more practical knowledge than he. He was the means of aiding many a sorrowing and unfortunate fellow-being; and numberless are the acts of charity and kindness performed by him. But, most of all, he was a Christian. At the time of his death he was a member of St. John's Church in this city, and few men are there who lived as consistent and faithful a life.

The funeral will take place from the residence of Mrs. E. Dunn, No. 1309 Twelfth avenue, at 6:30 o'clock Saturday morning and proceed to St. John's Church, where will be celebrated Requiem High Mass. From there the remains will be taken to Johnstown on Pacific Express. When the remains arrive here they will be taken to the residence of Mr. Hugh Bradley, corner of Vine and Market streets, where they will remain until Sunday afternoon, when interment will take place at 3 o'clock in Lower Yoder Cemetery.

MAKE THEIR OWN COKE.

The Cambria Iron Company Will Establish a Plant Here.

The Cambria Iron Company will hereafter make all the coke to be used in their mills at Johnstown. They owned what is known as the Lemon mines at East Conemaugh, but never were able to coke the coal. For some weeks they have been making a test of the new Adam's coke ovens at the Atlas mines, Dunbar. Pa Saturday Superintendent Taylor, of the mines made a report to the Company, in which he stated that a high quality of coke had been turned out by the oven from the Lemon coal.

The oven was tried in connection with an ordinary beehive oven charged with coal from the Atlas mines. The oven besides putting a ton of coke more a day than the beehive made one-hundredth per cent more coke from the same amount of coal. The Cambria Iron Company was perfectly satisfied and will put in a coke plant at Johnstown just as soon as possible.

Governor Beaver has appointed the 11th and 25th of April as arbor days. Two dates have been fixed so that you can plant on the second the trees you failed to plant on the first.

THE NEW ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAY

The Route it Will Take, and Other Interesting Information Concerning It.

As has already been stated in the columns of the DEMOCRAT work is in progress on the new electric street railway in the Seventh and Eighth wards. The route to be built immediately is a double track from where the work was begun in the Seventh ward, at the General Office, Moxham, to the Pennsylvania railroad track at Morrellville. The route lay along the valley pike to the old track Grubbtown, thence through the Eighth, Sixth, and Fifth wards to the Franklin street bridge, over the old route, to the corner of Main and Market streets. The track will be laid down Main to Walnut and over Walnut to the Lincoln bridge. From there to Morrellville the route will be the same as the old one, unless the site for the new Cambria-Millville bridge be located on a different site from where the old structure stood.

At the Morrellville end of the line there will be a loop, such as those at the Bedford street and Moxham stations of the Johnstown & Stonycreek Railroad, a piece of ground north of the Pennsylvania Railroad and west of the crossing having been leased from Mr. Strayer for that purpose. The Hornerstown and Woodvale routes will be built as speedily as possible, after the route spoken of has been completed, which the Company expects will be by July 1st. At that date it is expected that cars will be running from Moxham to Morrellville. A line will likely be built to Coopersdale. The Roxbury people are anxious, as has been previously stated, to have the cars, but whether the road will be extended to that place or not will be a matter for the future to decide.

The power station will be built in the Seventh ward, between Horner and Baumer streets, on the vacant lot South of Emmerling's brewery. It will be of brick, forty-two by 112 feet. Two large boilers, of 150 horse power each, have been ordered for it, from John Wood, at Conshohocken, Pa., to be delivered June 1st. There will also be three engines for the plant. They have been ordered from the Ball Engine Company, Erie, Pa., to be delivered not later than May 20th.

The generators and motors will be furnished by the Electric Railway Company, of Cleveland, Ohio. The line work will all be done by the Street Car Company of this place. The cars—ten motor and ten trail cars—have been contracted for with the John Stenerson Company, of New York, for May and June delivery.

The car shed will be built, work on it having already begun, a short distance south of the General Office, at Moxham, on the west side of the Valley Pike, or Central Avenue, as it is called in the plan of Moxham.

LEG BROKEN IN TWO PLACES.

Adam Roilde, of Woodvale, Beaten by Thugs on Saturday Night.

On Saturday night about 11 o'clock as Mr. Adam Roilde, of Woodvale, was on his way home from having been down street, he was beset by some thugs and badly beaten. The affair took place in Conemaugh borough on Railroad street, not far from the Haynes street crossing.

He was taken to his home in Woodvale by some friends, and Dr. H. F. Tomb attended him. Besides bruises on the head and face and being otherwise used up, one of his legs was broken in two places by being kicked. One of the bones only was fractured, the two breaks being between the knee and the ankle.

The assailants of Mr. Roilde made their escape. Yesterday evening he was getting along all right, but may not be seen on the streets again for two months.

TO MAKE BRICK.

The Refuse From the Old Ore Mines in Frog Hollow to be Used for That Purpose.

Some time ago satisfactory experiments were made with the refuse from the old mines in Frog Hollow—for the purpose of ascertaining whether the great piles of stuff could be used in making brick. A very good quality of brick was produced, very heavy, and of smooth surface. They are said to be very superior to clay brick.

The making of the brick will now be pushed rapidly. The materials is in the shape of a slate, or shale. It is first pulverized by machinery. After that the process is the same as in making clay brick.

Funeral of D. B. Gibbons.

The funeral of Mr. D. B. Gibbons was one of the largest held in this city for a long time. The remains were taken from the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. Hugh Bradley, corner of Market and Vine streets, at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and interred in the Lower Yoder Cemetery. Twenty-eight carriages were in the procession. Among those who were in attendance from a distance we have the names of the following: Altoona—Miss Maggie Dunn, Misses Celeman, Miss O'Neill, T. H. Groovey, Esq., John A. Doyle, Esq., E. H. Flick, Esq., Dr. Sheedy, H. A. McPike, Esq., Messrs. James Snyder, Matthew Dunn, Michael McCann, Richard McCall, P. H. Kelley, Miles Moran, J. A. Smith; Gallitzin—T. F. Burns; Portage—Felix O'Toole.

OBITUARY.

MRS. ANNIE CATHARINE BINGEL.

The subject of this notice died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Adolph Fritz, at No. 111 Adam street Ninth ward, about 5 o'clock Monday morning.

She had returned on Saturday from a visit to her daughter in Beaver Falls, and complained of feeling unwell, taking her bed soon after her arrival. There seemed to be no change in her condition till 3 o'clock yesterday morning, when she called her daughter and went to the kitchen. The old lady complained of a feeling of distress about her heart, and after some treatment returned to bed. She grew worse until 5 o'clock when she expired, saying that she was fainting.

Mrs. Bingell was the mother of ten children, five of whom are living, as follows: William, Louisa, Edward, Annie—wife of Frank Vaughn, Beaver Falls—and Ferdinand, of Bellaire, Ohio. She came to this country from Germany about sixty years ago. She married Dr. Ferdinand Bingell at Mechanicsburg, Indiana county. They removed to Johnstown in 1845, and later dwelt in Zanesville, Ohio, for some years, returning to Johnstown in 1856. The Doctor died in 1864, and was buried in the old Lutheran Cemetery, on Stonycreek street, but his remains were removed to Grand View some months ago.

The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock; interment will be made in Grand View beside her husband.

MRS. MATILDA KOUGH.

Mrs. Matilda Kough, wife of Geo. W. Kough, died at her husband's residence, Washington street, Monday morning between 6 and 7 o'clock. The announcement was quite a shock to her friends, as she was a woman of healthy appearance, and had always enjoyed good health.

The great Fourth bridge in Scotland cost the lives of fifty-six working men during the seven years of its construction, but the engineers insist that this is a remarkably good showing. They say: "The fact that the loss of life has not been larger on a work of such magnitude, with so many men employed in dangerous positions, shows that no reasonable precautions for their safety have been omitted."

When Edison had given two weeks of his valuable time to going up and down on Thursday last she went to see the remains of the late John Campbell, and was apparently in good health. She first fell ill on Friday and grew more worse, pneumonia setting in. Heart troubles came on, and the two proved too much for the physicians in charge, and death resulted, as stated.

The deceased was born in Conemaugh borough, and was the daughter of the late Christian Bifflinger, of that borough. She and Mr. Kough were married in February, 1881. Four children—all daughters—are living, and one is dead. Her age was thirty-one years, ten months, and six teen days.

The remains of Mrs. Kough will be taken to St. Joseph's German Catholic Church to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, where a requiem mass will be celebrated. Interment will then be made in Lower Yoder Cemetery.

SWINDLING FARMERS.

A New Device for Obtaining Their Signatures to Promissory Notes.

A neat and ingenious device for swindling farmers has lately been put in practice in the interior of the State. A stranger called upon a well-to-do farmer of the town of Coventry and exhibited a plough share, which he claimed to be of an improved pattern over old styles, doing its work better and with easier draught. He was introducing the ploughshare, he said, as the agent for a Buffalo agricultural machine warehouse. He offered to leave a ploughshare with the farmer on trial. If satisfactory, a stipulated price was to be remitted to the Buffalo house, and the farmer was to recommend the new tool to his neighbors. If not satisfactory, the ploughshare should cost the farmer nothing.

The proposition appeared so fair that the Coventry man accepted it, and, as a matter of form, the agent said, signed his name to a memorandum of the agreement, which the agent wrote out on the spot with a fountain pen that he produced from his pocket. A few days later the farmer was amazed by the presentation for payment of his note of hand for \$250. The note was presented by a neighbor, to whom the agent had sold it, with a plausible explanation and at a slight discount. At first the victimized farmer indignantly pronounced the signature a forgery, but a revived recollection of his deal with the ploughshare agent and a closer inspection of the handwriting satisfied him that the signature was his own.

How did the sharper work the trick? The accepted theory is that he wrote out the contract with an ink that soon faded out, and then substituted for the farmer's use in signing the document another fountain pen filled with common ink. The trick gave him, after the fading out process was completed, a piece of paper free of any mark except the genuine signature, which he converted into a promissory note. There is no concern in Buffalo doing business under the firm name given by the sharper.